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50 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	INR-10	INFO	DEPT	RM/R 2	REP 1	AF 2	ARA	EUR 3	FE 2	NEA	CU 3	INR	E	P	IO	AID 11
				OTHER	AGR	COM	FRB	INT	LAB	TAR	TR	XMB					
	REC'D 6-13				AIR 15	ARMY 20	CIA 15	NAVY 20	OSD 3	OCB	USIA 11	NSC 2	NSA 3	NIC 1			

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 23

INDEX

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Leadership
2. Public Reaction to the Hike in Meat and Butter Prices
3. Civil Defense
4. Rate of Serious Crimes Increasing
5. Draft Law to Force Soviet Citizens to Divulge Sources of Wealth

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

6. Opening of CEMA Meeting
7. Soviet Protest of US High Altitude Test
8. Berlin/Germany
9. Vietnam
10. Dahomey Goodwill Mission
11. Visit of Namadou Dia of Senegal

MILITARY (ARMY)

1. DOSAAF V Congress
2. Army Conference for Improving the Living Conditions of the Military

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REPORTER

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO: RSB/SOV	ACTION TAKEN Contents noted	
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL Kenneth A. Kraft	DATE OF ACTION 6/12/62	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Leadership. The week began with the publication on June 1 of the joint Appeal of the Party's Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers for popular understanding of the necessity of substantial rises in the price of meat, meat-products, and butter. As it ended, the minor press continued to be full of letters from collective-farm workers who welcome increased procurement prices for meat and promise to deliver the bacon, and from housewives and urban dwellers, which morosely admit that the rises were unavoidable, particularly in view of the cost of all the benefits with which the Soviet state provides them at little or no charge.

In lonely splendor, N. S. KHRUSHCHEV bore the brunt of "telling the people the truth" about the planning "mistakes" which resulted in the rises. On May 31, he was seconded by BREZHNEV, KOZLOV, MIKOYAN, and KOSYGIN, in seeing Mali Chief of State Modibo KEITA off for Prague. The next day, however, he appeared alone to participate in the opening of the Palace of Pioneers and Schoolchildren, named after the Fortieth Anniversary of the All-Union Pioneer Organization, located on Lenin Hills near Moscow University (or almost alone: CC and Moscow City Party Secretary DEMICHEV and Komsomol Secretary PAVLOV were in the group). His speech there avoided any mention of the price rises.

His wife, Mrs. Brezhnev, and Mrs. GROMYKO, joined him in welcoming Mme. Hartini SUKARNO to Moscow later in the day, but, again, none of the other members of the Central Committee Presidium was on hand.

The situation was the same on June 2, when Khrushchev received Laotian General Kong LE for a conversation in which Defense Minister MALINOVSKY and Lieutenant-General VORONTSOV also participated, and, more strikingly, when the First Secretary appeared before a meeting of Soviet and Cuban youth in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses to deliver the first authoritative top-level defense of the price rises. The apologetic character and tone of his speech were unusual and the subject of the rises was so obsessively on his mind that he appeared unable to stop talking about them.

June 3's press announced the convocation of the Party First Secretaries -- and heads of the governments -- of the member-countries of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA), "in accordance with agreement among the Central Committees of /their/ Communist and Workers' Parties."

Some distraction of the public mind from the undeviating attention the press had been devoting to the June 1 Appeal was provided by the publication on June 4 of the Soviet Government's declaration on American high-altitude nuclear tests, following which the regime worked to channel at least a measure of public ire against the devil without.

On June 4, Khrushchev talked with ULBRICHT, who had arrived for the meeting of CEMA Party chiefs -- a talk which, to judge by press reports, took place under four eyes. Ex-Leningrad Party Secretary SPIRIDONOV was the only other Soviet personality reported to be present at Khrushchev's meeting the same day with a Czechoslovak parliamentary delegation led by Zdenek FIERLINGER, and

only Deputy Chairman N. N. ORGANOV of the USSR Supreme Soviet assisted the Soviet Premier during his reception of Dahomey Vice-President Suru-Migan APITI. Khrushchev also saw Mme. Sukarno off at Vnukovo Airport, again supported by his wife, Mrs. Brezhnev, and Mrs. Gromyko.

Meanwhile, some of the other members of the Presidium were dividing the honors of welcoming to Moscow the CEMA country Party leaders: SUSLOV greeted Ulbricht and the GDR contingent; Kosygin did the honors for KADAR and the Hungarians; VORONOV glad-handed TSEDENBAL, apparently the only Asiatic observer at this CEMA Party gathering.

June 5 was just as action-packed as June 4. Kosygin welcomed GHEORGHUI-DEJ and the Rumanian CEMA team; KUUSINEN greeted YUGOV and the Bulgarians; Suslov repeated his June 4 trip to Vnukovo to receive GOMULKA and the Poles, and Brezhnev did the honors for NOVOTNY and the Czechoslovaks.

Khrushchev and First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Kosygin greeted the Senegalese Premier Mamadou DIA, for whom the Soviet Prime Minister gave a Kremlin dinner, at which the other leading Soviet representatives were Kosygin and POLYANSKY. Mamadou Dia called separately on Khrushchev and Brezhnev during the day. The next day, the Senegalese were packed off to Uzbekistan, obviously to give their Soviet hosts a free field for the CEMA Party meeting.

On June 5, a joint resolution of the CC-CPSU and the Council of Ministers appeared "On Measures for Increasing the Catch of Fish and Production of the Fish Industry," a sequel to the June 3 announcement that a State Committee for the Fishing Industry had been created, thus taking this responsibility away from Gosplan.

On June 6, Khrushchev and his two First Deputy Premiers, Kosygin and Mikoyan, took some of the CEMA delegation leaders to see the Exhibition of Light-Industry Products. Press photographs showed the Soviet Party leader flanked to his right by Gomulka and to his left by Ulbricht.

And June 7 saw the pace maintained. The CEMA Party conference ended -- but no communique or other announcement of its results was published. The CC-CPSU and Council of Ministers gave a dinner for the CEMA crowd, but announcements of the event named no names.

During the day, Khrushchev received Gomulka for a private chat and, in the evening, attended a reception given by the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade for the visiting Italian Minister of Foreign Trade. Again, his two First Deputy Premiers, Kosygin and Mikoyan, were with him.

There was little enough to be concluded from all this. It was apparent that, beginning with the announcement on June 1 of the meat-and-butter price rises, F. R. Kozlov ceased to be in public evidence, thus causing a gap in the quartet (Kozlov, Kosygin, Mikoyan, and Khrushchev) which had frequently appeared at public functions over the preceding three weeks. An article by him, entitled "The CPSU -- A Party of the Entire People", appeared in No. 8 of the Party's ideological journal, Kommunist, released for sale on June 2. (The article was

reprinted from "Problems of Peace and Socialism", No. 6, which had been available on the bookstands a little earlier.). But the man himself was not in evidence. The paucity of detail on the CPSU Party gathering made it impossible to determine whether he was on hand for this important meeting. And Khrushchev was left to explain the price rises, at the June 2 Cuban-Soviet youth meeting, without the visible backing of the "collective."

2. Public Reaction to the Hike in Meat and Butter Prices. Passive resignation and general disgruntlement marked Moscow public reaction to the 30 percent hike in meat prices and 25 percent rise in butter prices announced on June 1. In a private conversation, a staff member of Krokodil confirmed that most of the urban population was blaming the Government for its failure to keep prices down. The Krokodil staffer claims, however, that popular resentment will not be directed at Khrushchev personally.

Other Soviet citizens were initially shocked and indignant over the announcement, but, after a day or so, they had quieted down and were reflecting on the rationale contained in the regime's explanation that the measures had been taken to insure adequate production in the "nearest future". Many citizens seemed to feel that the Government had taken an unpopular step which would, however, ultimately work to their advantage. The slight (5%) reduction in sugar prices also made a favorable impression on some, since sugar is a major staple in the Russian basic diet of bread, potatoes, and tea (with lots of sugar).

This transition from initial anger to grudging acceptance undoubtedly was facilitated by Agitprop's thorough efforts, before the June 1 Appeal was made public, to explain to Party workers at the cell level the necessity and wisdom of the price rise. The rise had been rumored for a month. An American with good contacts in Moscow says that the text of the Appeal was in the hands of Party workers at the lowest levels several days before it was published.

3. Civil Defense. On May 22, a civil-defense film entitled "Anti-Aircraft Defense of the Population" was shown on Latvian TV, according to Sovetskaya Latviya of May 22 (Despatch No. 1094, June 7). It is not known if this is the same TV program seen by an Embassy officer in Kishinev on April 10 (Despatch No. 918, April 14). The Latvian program was in the Latvian language, while the Kishinev program was in Russian.

Over the weekend (June 2-3), the Embassy learned of a short pamphlet issued by the Soviet Army Publishing House (Voenizdat) on measures to take in the event of an enemy attack with weapons having a massive destructive capability. The pamphlet, published in 750,000 copies, emphasizes practical measures, such as how to build a fallout shelter, and seems to be a printed version of material described in Despatch No. 918.

Emphasis was placed on DOSAAF's civil-defense role during the recent DOSAAF Congress (May 22-25). DOSAAF Chairman General D. D. LELYUSHENKO, who was re-elected to that post at the Congress, nevertheless made it clear that, while DOSAAF plays an important role in assisting the civil-defense organization by providing volunteer workers, it is not charged with the primary responsibility for civil-defense policy-making.

"It is very important /for DOSAAF workers/ to establish daily contact with civil-defense staffs and with the committees of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and, together with them, to conduct the training of the population" (Soviet Patriot, May 23, 1962).

4. Rate of Serious Crimes Increasing. In a public lecture, the RSFSR Minister of Justice has stated that although the over-all crime rate in the USSR has been decreasing, the rate of "serious state crime" had increased during 1961 (Despatch No. 1099, June 8). He also said that there had been executions of persons convicted of crimes not punishable by death at the time of their commission, based upon "special /i.e., ex-post-facto/ legislation."

The Minister said that 10,000 persons were tried in Moscow during 1961 under the May 5, 1961, "anti-parasite" legislation. Most of the cases were tried in the regular courts, 8,000 persons received warnings; 2,000 were banished.

5. Draft Law to Force Soviet Citizens to Divulge Sources of Wealth. A new law is being worked out which would legally compel persons to divulge the sources of their wealth, if asked to do so by the authorities.

Under the proposed law, the accused could be convicted on the basis of his own statements.

The immediate public response to rumors that such legislation was being contemplated was the sale of many dachas and concealment of the proceeds. (Despatch No. 1099).

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

6. Opening of CEMA Meeting. A meeting of the first secretaries of the Communist parties and heads of government of the countries which participate in CEMA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) opened in Moscow on June 6. Thus far no information has appeared in the Soviet press about which countries actually are participating in the meeting as full members or observers. Delegations were reported as arriving from the GDR, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Mongolia (observer status), and Czechoslovakia. Albania's protest about the illegality of the CEMA meeting suggests it was not invited, but Soviet sources are circulating a story that Albania had received an invitation. The same sources say that Communist China also was invited to send an observer delegation. According to foreign Communist correspondents, the Chinese Ambassador has attended as an observer. There has been no indication in the Soviet press of what North Korea and the DRV are doing about the meeting.

Thus, in addition to the economic questions raised by Common Market developments in the West and by internal bloc developments, political questions presumably will enter into CEMA discussions.

7. Soviet Protest of US High Altitude Test. In a note dated June 3, enclosing a Soviet Government Statement, it was asserted that US high altitude nuclear tests would constitute an act of an aggressive character and alleged

that the tests would contaminate the upper layers of the atmosphere, interrupt radio communications, create a new belt of radiation in atmospheric space, and endanger astronauts. The declaration also said that the measures taken by the US served to extend the arms race to space and would make it necessary for the Soviet Union to take corresponding measures to assure its security as well as the security of socialist and all peace-loving countries.

The Soviet press devoted considerable space to reporting alleged "indignant" reactions from at home and abroad to the high altitude tests. Following the line taken in the note of June 3, Soviet commentators linked the high altitude tests to an alleged US interest in launching a preventive nuclear war, claiming that the US was searching for an opportunity to paralyze the defenses of "peace-loving nations" and thereby to safeguard itself from a retaliatory nuclear blow. Characteristically, commentaries failed to make any references to the 1961 Soviet test series.

The statement as well as public comments by Soviet cosmonauts Titov and Gagarin suggested that the US high altitude tests dimmed prospects of US-Soviet cooperation in outer space, but the formulation used in every instance was such as to avoid any unequivocal language writing off current bilateral talks in this area.

While the Soviet attack was obviously designed to make propaganda capital, it also seemed to be designed to buttress argumentation advanced in connection with recent Soviet price hikes on meat and butter, namely, that the international situation and alleged US aggressive designs prevented the Party and the Government from shifting resources from defense and heavy industry to agriculture.

8. Berlin/Germany. The Embassy received a note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on June 8 listing and protesting "dangerous provocations" against the GDR by West Berlin police and "fascist" elements in West Berlin in the past two weeks. The note warns that the Soviet Government will be forced to take "appropriate measures to fulfill its obligations toward the GDR" unless the "provocations" cease. It also lists the shooting incidents of May 23 and May 27, bomb explosions along the wall on May 25-26, and the throwing of a grenade "onto GDR territory" from a military vehicle in the British sector on May 24. It also refers to "fascist" attacks on the West Berlin Intourist office on May 24-25.

The official protest stands somewhat in contrast to the routine and brief attention given to these incidents in the Soviet press.

9. Vietnam. On June 7 Pravda published excerpts of a June 4 DRV Government statement condemning the ICC report which was transmitted to the Geneva Co-chairman through the British and Soviet embassies in New Delhi on June 5. The DRV statement attacked the Indian and Canadian members of the ICC for their conclusions, claiming that this violated the 1954 Geneva agreements. It said that the DRV will continue its fight against "US intervention" in South Vietnam and expressed confidence that peaceloving people throughout the world will greet the conclusions of the Indian and Canadian ICC members with indignation.

It may be significant that Pravda did not publish the full text. The Pravda version of the statement did not mention Communist China or any specific action the DRV may have asked the Geneva Co-chairman to take. Without calling for the convention of an international diference, it merely said that the DRV requests "representatives of the 1954 Geneva Conference" to reject the ICC's conclusions.

10. Dahomey Goodwill Mission. A Dahomey mission of goodwill headed by Vice President Sourou-Migan Apithy visited the Soviet Union from May 28 to June 5 as guests of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The visit culminated with an announcement that an agreement had been signed on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Dahomey and an exchange of diplomatic representatives. Trade and cultural agreements were reportedly initialled and it was agreed that these would be signed shortly in Dahomey. According to the press, an official invitation was also extended to President Maga to visit the Soviet Union at a time convenient to him.

During the course of the visit, Vice President Apithy was received by Khrushchev. Apithy's companions on the visit, Minister of Internal Affairs and Defense Arouna Mama and Minister of Agriculture Adante, met respectively with the Soviet Ministers of Defense and Agriculture, Malinovsky and Pysin.

11. Visit of Mamadou Dia of Senegal. Mamadou Dia, Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Senegal, arrived in the Soviet Union for an official visit on June 5. Upon arrival at Moscow, where he was greeted by Khrushchev and other members of the Presidium and Government, Dia made some rather frank remarks which must have come as a surprise to some of the dignataries present. He noted that Senegal's choice is to build socialism but "to build it in a concrete and not in an abstract way, not according to theoretical schemes, but proceeding from our natural data, proceeding from the economic and social conditions in our country." Dia then added that the Senegalese do not claim to be Marxists-Leninists but merely people of good will, concerned with their country's future. On foreign policy, Dia said that the main ideas which Senegal supports are negotiations, disarmament, non-interference and non-participation in blocs. Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Dia and his party proceeded to Tashkent.

MILITARY (ARMY)

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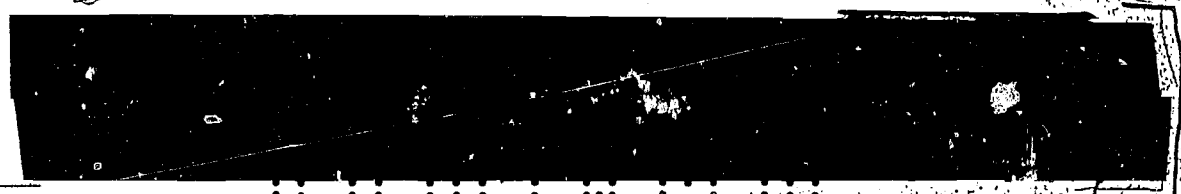

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Desp. No. 103

From Moscow

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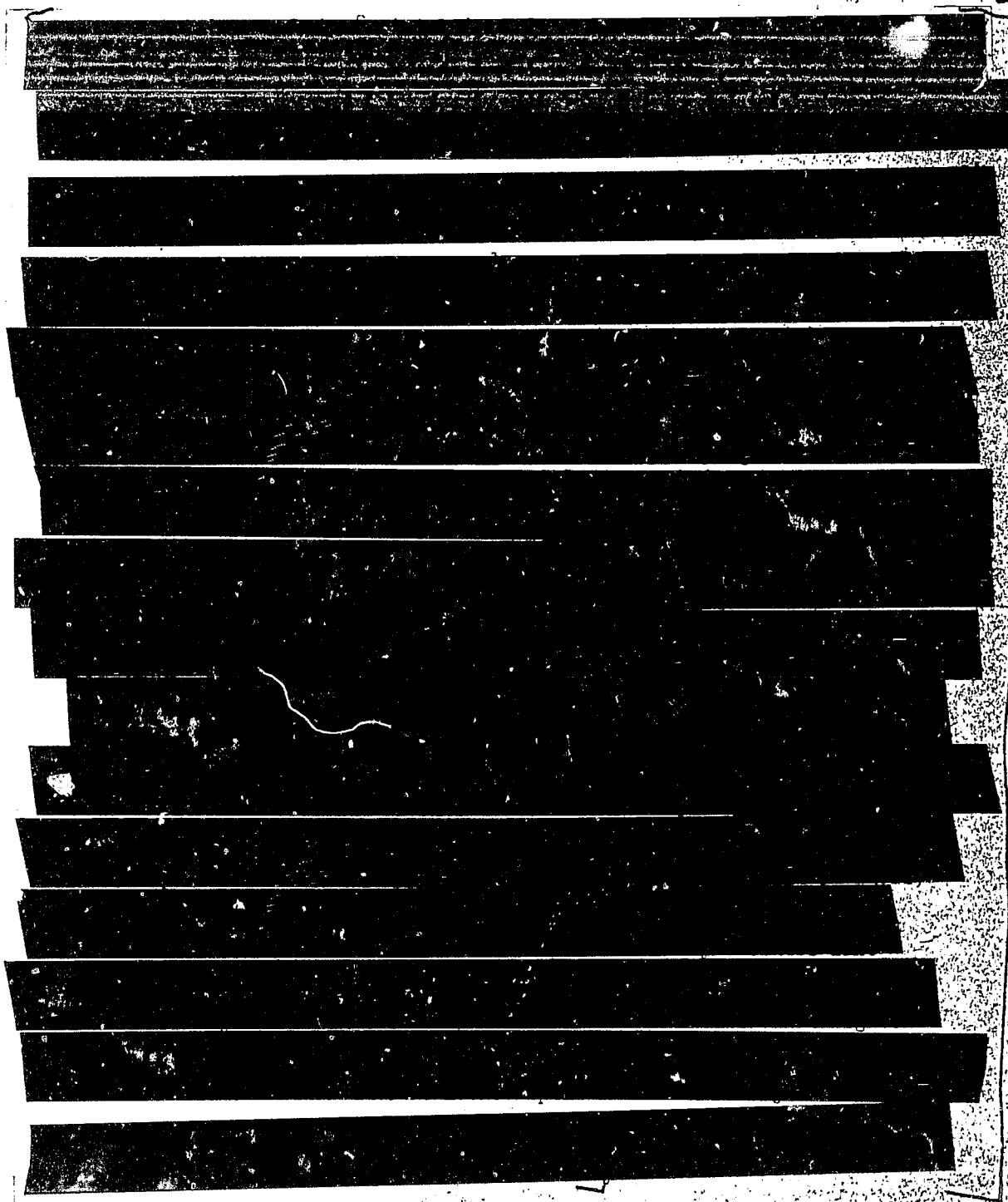

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Desp. No. 1103
From Moscow

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FOR THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM:

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